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Then the votes were counted.

MR. SPEAKER:—"I shall now announce the results:

Ayes 128, Noes 149 [a], Neutral 1.

The cut motion was lost.

MR. SPEAKER:—"The hon. Leader of the Opposition raised a point of order that the hon. Member Sri Ramesam had made a mistake in voting. I am going to follow the practice obtaining in the House of Commons in this matter. If a Member goes into the wrong lobby, through inadvertence, it is the rule in the Commons, in opposition to the practice of the Lords, to hold the Member bound by the vote he has actually given. That is my ruling." 5–20 p.m.

* SRI T. VISWANATHAM:—"I am not going to question your ruling or do any such thing, Sir. I only wish to submit that you will find that a Member who has by inadvertence gone into the wrong lobby has got a right to go and tell the Speaker and correct the vote."

MR. SPEAKER:—"According to the parliamentary practice, I have quoted, he is bound by the vote that he has given.

"I am now going to put the original motion to the vote of the House. The question is—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 74,00,000 under Demand XXIII—Harijan Uplift.'"

The Demand was carried and the Grant was made.

(2) DEMAND XXVIII—ELECTRICITY.

* THE HON. SRI N. RANGA REDDI:—"Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the recommendation of His Excellency the Governor, I move—

'That the Government be granted a sum not exceeding Rs. 3,18,35,000 under Demand XXVIII—Electricity.'

"This Demand is for a grant from current revenues to meet working expenses of Electricity Schemes in operation. The working expenses include expenditure on smaller works financed from ordinary revenues, expenditure on maintenance, provision for depreciation and the cost of establishments. Against Rs. 3·18 crores required for these working expenses, the gross revenue expected to be earned by the Electricity Department is Rs. 5·09 crores.

"The bulk of the demand under Electricity, however, comes under Demand XXXVIII relating to the Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes. The Demand for Capital Outlay on Electricity Schemes this year amounts to Rs. 8 crores, the revised estimate under the same head for 1951–52 having been Rs. 7·25

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[a] See page 192 infra where this number149 is corrected into 150.

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crores and the expenditure in 1950–51 Rs. 7·37 crores. To present a complete picture of what is being done in the field of Electricity, I may be permitted to deal with both the demands together.

" Sir, in the matter of development and supply of electric power, Madras has been very progressive, especially in rural electrification. The number of villages receiving electric supply in the State is over 2,200 and this is the largest in All India. At the end of the War in 1945, the installed capacity of the generating plants in the State totalled about 160,000 K.W. To meet the increasing demand for power, a number of major schemes were taken up, to add an additional 180,000 K.W. of power. Some of them have been completed, viz., the Ceded Districts Grid, the Nellore Thermal Scheme, the first stage of the Madurai Thermal Scheme, and the Visakhapatnam, Vijayavada and Papanasam Extensions. These have added 34,000 K.W. to the power capacity of the State. The others in execution have been incorporated in the basic five-year plan of the Planning Commission for the period 1951–56. The total cost will be Rs. 50 crores for that period. But most of the works will be completed by 1954. For example, the Moyar Hydro Scheme is nearing completion. I am glad to say that out of the 3 units of 12,000 K.W. each at Moyar, one unit was put into operation in April last and has proved of immense assistance in dealing with the shortage of power in the other hydro-electric systems due to low supplies of water in the reservoirs. The Machkund Hydro Scheme, which is a joint scheme financed by the Madras and Orissa States, will be completed in 1954, adding 51,000 K.W. of power capacity. In addition, when the Tungabhadra Hydro-power Station, for the plant for which orders have recently been placed, is built, it will supply power to the entire Ceded Districts area, and will enable Government to stop the supplies of power they are receiving from Mysore and also shut down oil engine stations in various parts of the area, which are very costly to operate and maintain. The rest of the programme consists of extensions that are being made to existing power-houses to provide additional supplies of 27,000 K.W. at the Pykara Hydro-electric Station, 30,000 K.W., at the Madras Thermal Station and 10,000 K.W. at the Madurai Thermal Station. The total route miles of transmission lines was 7,715. The programme contemplates the addition of 1,650 miles of new high tension lines. The cost of transmission lines and distribution works alone in the programme will be Rs. 23 crores, of which Rs. 17 crores is hoped to be spent in the five-year period. The current year is practically the peak period of execution of the plan, and the provision of Rs. 8 crores this year is the largest in any year, so far.

5–30 a.m. " The Machkund Hydro-electric Project is the largest single item in our Electricity Programme and is ultimately capable of developing 100,000 K.W. It includes provision of transmission lines for carrying the power to the districts in the Circars. A sum of Rs. 2·62 crores will be spent on this scheme in the current year. The remaining two generators in the Moyar Hydro-electric Scheme are expected to be put into operation in the current year.

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The Pykara Extensions, on which a sum of Rs. 1·41 crores is to be spent in the current year, are intended to augment the supply to the Coimbatore mill area, which has been badly affected by power-cuts in recent years. This work is also likely to be completed by the end of 1953 or the middle of 1954. A total sum of nearly Rs. 1½ crores provided under the Mettur and Papanasam Hydro-electric Schemes, is largely for extensions of the main transmission lines to rural areas, where power is required for lifting water for irrigation. About 3,000 new pump-sets are being connected up each year in the rural areas. On the expansion of the Madras Thermal Scheme, a sum of Rs. 1·27 crores is proposed to be spent in the current year. There is a very large volume of unsatisfied demands, especially for industrial needs in the City and every effort is being made to complete the work before the end of 1953. The other schemes in the Capital Budget are mainly for extension of power supply, and include a small amount of Rs. 20 lakhs for payment of compensation for the acquisition of Electrical Undertakings by the Government, about which I shall say a word or two later.

" The Hydro-electric stations at Pykara, Mettur and Papanasam and the Thermal station at Madras are already interconnected to form a grid. When plenty of water is available in the Hydro-electric Reservoirs, the Hydel Systems supply a part of the requirements of the Madras Station, thus helping Government to save expenditure on coal and other necessities at the Madras Thermal Station. At periods of low water in the Reservoirs, the Madras Station comes to the rescue, and, as a matter of fact, in recent months, the Madras Station has been supplying over a lakh of units to the grid daily.

" The generating stations, especially the hydro stations, work continuously, and produce power for a more or less constant amount of expenditure on staff, depreciation, maintenance and overheads. Unless the full capacity of the stations is brought to use as quickly as possible, fullest economy will not have been secured. It is therefore important that schemes for extending supply of electricity should be continuously prepared and executed. Such schemes are investigated, sanctioned and executed in order of priority of applications and with due regard to the availability of power for supply in the various areas. In particular, our policy is to speed up rural electrification, especially for supply of power for agricultural pump-sets, in view of the food position. The total number of agricultural pump-sets connected up to the end of the previous financial year was nearly 19,000 compared to only 5,900 in 1946. Our target is to supply power to 3,000 new pump-sets each year, and we have been fairly successful in achieving this target. People from various parts of the State clamour for supplies of power, and sometimes go to the extent of alleging that certain areas have been preferred, while theirs have been neglected. Extension of supply can be undertaken only where power is available, and we are in fact doing so. An unprecedented amount is being spent on Electricity Schemes, and our financial resources are not unlimited, to take up extension schemes

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in all areas, simultaneously. More than finance, the grave world-shortage of essential materials, particularly copper conductors, and transformers of various types, dictates the pace and order of execution of extension schemes.

"To supply the other areas in which there is no power capacity, we are hastening the construction of generating stations included in the programme, but, in this connection, I must utter a note of caution. It is not unusual for people to suggest that thermal stations may be constructed here and there. The machinery required for thermal stations is costly and, above all, coal is both costly and very difficult to get. Diesel oil is even more costly. The cost of generation of power in a thermal plant is over four times the cost of generation under hydro-electric schemes. Thermal stations also take time to establish, especially as the plant has to be ordered, manufactured, transported and installed. Except for petty plants of standard size which would be most uneconomic, power plant, whether for hydro-electric stations or for thermal stations, has to be specially made. It is a tailor-made job, if one may say so, and there is no question of buying anything ready-made. Months of planning and designing are needed, before evolving the size, shape and capacity of the plant required; and before a new thermal plant can be erected, the hydro-electric schemes in execution would have come into operation.

"We have also proposed to the Planning Commission a Supplementary Programme of power development, as even the completion of the existing programme would not be adequate to satisfy the demands for power. One scheme in the Supplementary Programme provides for the generation of power, using the waters of the Periyar lake. This scheme would cost Rs. 10½ crores and would provide 75,000 K.W. in the first stage, and 100,000 K.W. ultimately. Another new scheme proposed is the Kundah Scheme in the Nilgiris, which would utilise the waters of the Kundah and Bhavani rivers in their upper reaches, and generate power to the extent of 75,000 K.W. in the first stage and 150,000 K.W. ultimately. It is estimated to cost a little over Rs. 30 crores.

"I now turn to the question of acquisition of Electricity Undertakings. Rural electrification is not a paying proposition and it would not be possible for licensees generally to extend power to the rural areas to any appreciable extent. Besides, the operation of the Government Electricity Department in the State as a whole, with pockets of licensees' areas mainly concentrated in towns, involved duplication of effort and expenditure on the maintenance of separate transformer stations for the areas of licensees who take power in bulk from Government, and for the areas supplied by Government direct near the same place, and on the maintenance of stores, staff, etc. It was evident that if the policy of extension of power to rural areas, particularly for agricultural purposes, was to be implemented, it would be essential to rationalize generation and distribution of power in the State as a whole, so that the entire business of generation and supply, with an inter-connected grid covering the entire State, could be managed by a

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well-knit single unit, which would be able to bear the expenditure involved in rural electrification. The Government have therefore been acquiring private electricity supply undertakings according to a regulated programme. After acquisition, they have been putting into execution schemes for the improvement of the units acquired, and the extension of supplies therefrom to neighbouring areas. Unfortunately, owing to lack of funds, Government have been compelled to go slow on the acquisition programme and in practice will be able to take over only those undertakings which are not functioning satisfactorily, and are not giving proper service to the public, or those which must necessarily be owned and operated by Government, immediately, so as to execute major and useful Government schemes of extension of supply in the areas concerned. The small amount of Rs. 20 lakhs provided for the acquisition of Electricity Undertakings is intended to meet the balance of compensation due to be paid in the current year in respect of undertakings already taken over, and the cost of acquisition of two or three uneconomic private undertakings which are not working satisfactorily. This procedure, I am afraid, will have to be continued for sometime. We will be needing all the funds we can obtain for new generation projects and cannot spare much for acquisition, as such, of private undertakings.

"The Electricity Department has been working very satisfactorily with the avowed object of supplying power to all connected loads continuously and efficiently. But, unfortunately, Dame Nature has been against us from time to time and has denied us supplies of water in the power reservoirs, so essential for the generation of the power needed. This led to the imposition of cuts on power consumption, cuts which the Government were most reluctant to impose. Government were compelled to do so, so that the power available may be shared by all concerned, the full demands being met in the case of essential supplies such as agricultural pump-sets, hospitals, water-supply and drainage schemes and street lighting. No favouritism, whatever, was shown in the working of the cuts, and I am glad to say that, on the whole, the public have co-operated with the Government fully, realising that the power available should be equitably and equally shared instead of a few favoured persons being given more than others. With the further development of the grid in which one unit can come to the aid of the other, with the completion of the existing programme and the taking up of new schemes contemplated, and with public co-operation, the Electricity Department, to whose loyal efficiency I would like to pay a tribute, hopes to continue to give the maximum service to the public of this State."

V.—RECTIFICATION OF AN ERROR IN COUNTING OF VOTES.

MR. SPEAKER:—"Before proceeding further I wish to announce to the House that the Secretary has informed me that there is a mistake in counting the votes on the cut motion on the Harijan Uplift Demand. It appears, that in counting the members against the cut motion, they left out Mr. Ramesam's vote. 5–40 p.m.